

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EB-11 NSC-10 SAM-01 SPC-03 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 AGR-20 OMB-01

FEA-02 PM-07 COME-00 H-03 CIEP-02 /110 W

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R 141150Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 640

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, TH

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC SUBJECTS RTG LIKELY TO RAISE
WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH

REF: A) STATE 8031; C) BANGKOK 2387

B) BANGKOK 2070; D) STATE 028978.

1. PM SANYA DURING CALL ON HIM BY DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH
LIKELY TO RAISE SAME OR SIMILAR REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE AS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL ON FEB. 4,
AND BY OTHER RTG OFFICIALS ON OTHER OCCASIONS. SHOULD
ALSO BE ANTICIPATED THAT PM WILL CARRY REQUEST ONE STEP
FURTHER BY ASKING IF ANY ACTION TAKEN SINCE INGERSOLL
VISIT.

2. SPECIFIC POINTS ON WHICH RTG HAS SOUGHT ASSISTANCE
HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY TELEGRAM WITH EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR ACTION. IN BRIEF SUMMARY THEY ARE: A) REQUEST FOR
INCREASE IN THAI SUGAR QUOTA FROM LESS THAN 20,000 TONS
TO 100,000 TONS PER YEAR (BANGKOK 2206); B) REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE FROM US IN LOCATING AT LEAST 50,000 METRIC
TONS OF 20-10-0 FERTILIZER FOR SALE AT NO HIGHER THAN
WORLD MARKET PRICE (REFTEL B) AND BANGKOK 1658; (SEPARATE
LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO DEPUTY SECRETARY BEING AIR-
POUCHED FEBRUARY 15 ON POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN PROVIDING
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FERTILIZER AND PRIVATE AMERICAN COMPANY EXPLOITATION OF

PROSPECTIVE VERY LARGE POTASH DEPOSIT IN NORTHEAST THAILAND);
C) REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING AT LEAST 100,000
OR MORE TONS OF DIESEL FUEL AT CONCESSIONAL PRICE OR, AT
LEAST AT NO HIGHER THAN WORLD MARKET PRICE (BANGKOK 2387);
D) REQUEST FOR LARGER SCRAP IRON QUOTA (BANGKOK 1950);
E) SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION DURING BILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY OF THAILAND'S COMPARATIVE
ADVANTAGE IN PRODUCING SYNTHETIC TEXTILES FOR EXPORT
(BANGKOK 2157).

3. IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT STATE AND TREND OF THAI-US
RELATIONS THAT INCREASINGLY MARKED BY STRESS ON ECONOMIC WITH
LESS STRESS ON MILITARY AND SECURITY ASPECTS, REGARD IT HIGHLY
IMPORTANT FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY TO REPLY POSITIVELY TO ONE OR
MORE OF THESE REQUESTS. A REPETITION OF STATEMENT THAT
REQUESTS UNDER STUDY IN WASHINGTON WOULD MERELY GIVE ADDITION-
AL FILLIP TO MAJOR THEME IN GROWING CRITICISM OF US POLICY
TOWARD THAILAND, NAMELY, THAT US ONLY ACTS IN RELATION
TO OWN SPECIFIC SELFISH INTERESTS, AND NEVER OUT OF
CONSIDERATION FOR THAILAND'S NEEDS AS A DESERVING ALLY
FROM WHOSE TERRITORY US MILITARY FORCES OPERATED.

4. RECOMMENDATION: IN LIGHT OF REFTEL D) ON SUGAR
LEGISLATION, THIS MAY BE THE ONE REQUEST WITH THE BEST
PROSPECTS FOR NEAR TERM AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE. BELIEVE
IN LIGHT OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATION IN REFTEL C)
THAT IT IMPORTANT DEPUTY SECRETARY BE PREPARED TO INFORM RTG THAT
ADMINISTRATION IS STRONGLY SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN THE
THAI SUGAR QUOTA. THAI HAVE ASKED FOR
100,000 TONS, AND I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO MEET
THEIR REQUEST, IF THIS IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE, I HOPE
WE CAN AT THE VERY BEST COME CLOSE TO THIS FIGURE. OUR
STRONGEST REASONS FOR THIS REQUEST ARE POLITICAL BUT IN
APPROACHING CONGRESS A STRONG CASE CAN ALSO BE MADE ON
THE GOOD MARKET FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN THAILAND.
THAILAND BUYS 40 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF COTTON,
20 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF TOBACCO AND 10 MILLION DOLLARS
WORTH OF OTHER AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES FROM THE U.S.
ANNUALLY WHILE WE BUY ONLY ABOUT 30 MILLION OF THAI
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, CHIEFLY RUBBER.
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